

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

April 10, 2007

The County of Los Angeles is an international leader in numerous industries including entertainment, technology, and trade. As the 8th largest economy in the nation and the 17th largest in the world, it is essential that County government continue to support the infrastructure which historically has been an integral component in the economic growth in our region. Whereas in previous economic cycles, innovations in heavy industrial manufacturing served as the catalyst for economic growth, today it is clear that continued economic prosperity relies on communications technology. Specifically, the Internet stands as the driving force behind any jurisdiction’s ability to compete in an increasingly global market.

The availability of higher education institutions and the positive impact which they have on the local workforce has long been regarded as a major factor in attracting and retaining businesses. Today, a substantial amount of learning and business is conducted online. Therefore, it is imperative that the County of Los Angeles expand its workforce and economic development initiatives to include the expansion and widespread availability of high speed wireless Internet.

Over the last several years, the Board has provided leadership and supported the implementation of wireless Internet at all County libraries to supplement the wired Internet access that was already available. Additionally, the Department of Parks and Recreation provides wired Internet access at many of its recreational facilities.

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MOTION

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YAROSLAVSKY	_____

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While the County has shown initiative in making Internet access available, it is time to pursue a broader initiative that will not only allow the County to remain at the forefront of high tech globalization, but would be an essential upgrade to our constituents' quality of life.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work in concert with the Chief Information Officer, Department of Public Works, Department of Community and Senior Services, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Consumer Affairs, and the Internal Services Department to accomplish the following in order to assess the viability and benefits of expanding Wireless Fidelity "WiFi" internet access throughout the County of Los Angeles:

- 1) Conduct a feasibility study on the expanded development and implementation of "WiFi" services to be made available within the unincorporated areas, County courthouses, parks and recreational areas, Community and Senior Services facilities and other possible areas of the County, as deemed appropriate by the CAO, for the benefit of all residents and businesses at minimal or no cost. The study shall include estimated costs, timelines for implementation, potential security issues, and the viability of partnering with the local cable or telecommunications companies that are currently providing services in the unincorporated areas of the County;
- 2) Consult with other jurisdictions within the County of Los Angeles to determine whether this expanded service could be coordinated either in collaboration or partnership with interested municipalities;
- 3) Assess the operational benefits of "WiFi" access for County Departments; and
- 4) Report back with findings and recommendations within 180 days.

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